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In the notes the following need correction : 5.5: for 85. 5, 9 read 89. 5, 9. 10. 7: for 11. 8 read 11. 5. 12. 10: for 488 read 48. 8(?). 13. 7: for Gawain 2488 read Gawain 488. 14. 7: "cp. note 14. 5"—there is none: 17. 11(?). 40. 7: for 70. 12 read 71-2. 12(?). For 47. 4 read 47. 5.

A review of "Pearl" would be incomplete without mentioning the Pre-Raphaelite allegorical frontispiece by Mr. Holman Hunt, and the exquisite prefatory quatrain by the poet laureate with which Mr. Gollancz has enriched his beautiful and valuable edition.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

POPULAR ETYMOLOGY.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES.

SIRS:—Is the following instance of 'popular etymology' familiar to the readers of MOD. LANG. NOTES? On the marshes here is gathered the plant samphire, used for greens. Locally, however, only very few know or use the proper name, but it is always referred to as "sand fire." I might perhaps also mention that the farmers rarely say "marsh," but almost always 'mash,' with a very flat *a*.

W. M. TWEEDIE.

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CORRECTION.

In the last (May) number of MOD. LANG. NOTES, col. 315, l. 7: for *strong* read *strange*. *ibid.*, l. 18, insert *not* before *be*.

BRIEF MENTION.

In October of last year the new Danish Minister of Culture, Goos, appointed a commission consisting of representatives of the different classes of schools, to consider the subject of orthography. The rules of spelling published in 1889, during the ministry of Scavenius, have not won general approval, special opposition to them having been expressed by editors and authors. The commission is instructed to examine these rules with a view to modifying or entirely changing the most objectionable features, if this seem desirable. At present there are almost as many systems of orthography as there are religious sects in America. The commission is especially warned to proceed as cautiously as possible and to make only such suggestions as give

promise of real improvement. There is every reason to suppose that the most radical of Scavenius' changes will be suppressed and many of the claims of the so-called 'Literary Orthography' recognized.

From W. R. Jenkins (New York. Boston: Schoenhof) we receive new publications in each of his series. The first is a short comedy 'Bouderie,' in one act, by Maurice Lecomte, who evidently is a resident of New York.—The second is no. 17 of *Contes choisis* and is taken up with one story, 'le Chant du cygne,' by Georges Ohnet, rather melancholy in its tone.—The third is an addition to the *Romans choisis*, of which it makes no. 19. It is a product of the *Prix Montyon*, and, notwithstanding that fact, is a bright love-story. The title is 'Mon oncle et mon curé,' and the author Jean de la Brète, of whom we know nothing, but suspect the name represents a pseudonym. The novel is a decided improvement in interest and style over its predecessor in the series.

Ginn & Co. send us three reprints of French texts published under the supervision of Prof. Bôcher of Harvard. They are Moilère's 'Misanthrope,' reproduced from the edition of 1667, Racine's 'Andromaque,' from that of 1697, and Montaigne's 'De l'Institution des enfants,' from the original text of 1580. These literal reproductions are of much service to advanced students of the language and syntax, and we hope to see their number increased, particularly from among the authors of the sixteenth century and of the first four decades of the seventeenth. The series to which these texts belong has been named the *International Modern Language Series*.

Belonging to the same series are two annotated texts, 'la Famille de Germandre,' by George Sand, edited by Augusta C. Kimball, and Erckmann-Chatrian's 'Madame Thérèse' with notice and notes by George W. Rollins. In the first named, the editor has followed the extreme of placing the burden of translation on the student. This plan is preferable to excessive annotation, but thirty notes for one hundred and six pages of text are far too few. They are not sufficient to justify editing.—'Madame Thérèse,' on the other hand, is judiciously and ably edited. There are but two notes in it which might be profitably changed, and they are of an historical bearing. The origin of the French flag is not as indicated on page 21, note 2 (see Chénel: 'Dictionnaire des Institutions'); and Provence (note 2, page 159) is but a small part, and perhaps not the most prolific, of the country of the Troubadours.

D. C. Heath & Co. have increased their French texts by the publication of Racine's 'Esther,' with introduction, notes and ap-

pendices by I. H. B. Spiers. The notes of this edition are thoroughly satisfactory but we have reservations to make regarding the page on the development of French tragedy, and the importance of Corneille in adapting its form to the requirements of acting. Of the appendices, the first on "French Verse" is hardly necessary after the remarks of Drs. Bowen and Matzke in the same series. The remaining four discuss grammatical points which embarrass every student, as that on the "Past Tenses in French," pp. xii-97. 25 cts.

An earlier addition to the *Modern Language Series* of this firm is Prof. Joynes' edition of 'French Fairy Tales.' Here the editor has brought together five stories of Perrault, which are best known in English, one of Mme. d'Aulnoy and two by Mme. Leprince de Beaumont. The purpose of the collection is to interest beginners, especially children, in the study of French, and for that end the notes are made very full, covering nearly one third as many pages as the text. They include remarks by the editor on the merits of the tales, grammatical notes and translations of the more difficult passages. Since the book is intended for the first steps in French the editor has made for it a vocabulary, which is to be commended for giving more than one meaning to a word and for showing the use of the various words in combination with others. By this method the advantages of a lexicon are gained. Prof. Joynes calls especial attention to the system, which he employs in the vocabulary, of indicating, by a dash, "not only, as usual, the title word, but also the stem or essential part, or even the whole, of the French word, when identical, or nearly so, with the English equivalent." By this means he hopes to encourage the habit of comparison between French and English words of like derivation. The labors of the editor conclude with a list of the irregular verbs which occur in the text, and a table of their irregular forms. We must acknowledge our obligations, as instructors, to Prof. Joynes for the pains he has taken to make this beginners' book so attractive and so complete in its explanatory features. There is no reason why elementary training should not be as thorough and scientific in itself, as the more advanced. To form good habits of study in his pupils is the aim of the earnest teacher, and systematic editing will aid him greatly in his efforts in this direction. The book is of convenient size: v, 147 pp.; price, 35 cts.

Longmans, Green & Co. (London and New York) have issued the story of Dantès' captivity in the Château d'If under the title of 'Episodes from le Comte de Monte-Cristo par Alexandre Dumas.' The editor, D. B. Kitchin, M.A., publishes portions of the original narrative, and connects them by occasional

summaries in English. He also gives a short biographical notice of Dumas and an introduction to the episode in question. The notes are poor in quality, performing too much the service of the lexicon and the duty of the instructor. An appendix on "Letter-change in the formation of French Words" is based on the English translation of Brachet's Grammar and Etymological Dictionary. The last twenty years of scientific study of the French language are apparently unknown to the editor.

Molière's 'le Misanthrope' is the latest addition to the "French Classics" of the *Clarendon Press Series*. Its editor, H. W. Gegg Markheim, M.A., has made a good study of the surroundings and spirit of the play in his introduction, but has curiously mixed up moral reflections and personal experience with the testimony of the seventeenth century society gossips. The text is preceded by the bookseller's announcement of De Visé's letter on 'le Misanthrope' and the letter itself is printed in full. The notes to the play are separated into two divisions. The first comprises nearly forty pages, and is devoted to historical and literary comments on the passages considered to be worthy of notice. The second division, of five pages, is headed "Translations," but, besides renderings in a rather florid and poetical style, this part contains a few grammatical explanations. The book bears all the evidence of being prepared for special students, whose main object in reading the play would be literature and social history. From this standpoint it is very well made. But instructors could not introduce it safely into the average class-room.

PERSONAL.

Dr. Waller Deering of Vanderbilt University (cf. MOD. LANG. NOTES, Vol. v, p. 31) has been called to the Womans College of Western Reserve University, Cleveland, as Professor of Germanic Languages.

Dr. Alexander R. Hohlfeld of Vanderbilt University (cf. MOD. LANG. NOTES, Vol. v, p. 63) has been transferred from the Chair for Romance Languages to that of the Teutonic Languages.

Dr. R. Hochdörfer has been made Alumni Professor of Modern Languages in Wittenberg College (Ohio) in place of Dr. Hugo K. Schilling, called to Harvard University (cf. MOD. LANG. NOTES, vol. vi, p. 192). Dr. Hochdörfer studied at the universities of Halle and Leipsic, passing the *Staats-Examen* at the latter university in 1881. He received the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard University in 1888. From 1884-86 he was successively teacher of French and German, and Associate Principal of the Classical Academy